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Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Note verbale dated 14 January 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations (Vienna) has the honour to forward, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 57/1 and 58/4, the report of the international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development, which was held in Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 19 to 24 November 2015, with the request that it be made available as an official document of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to be held in Vienna from 14 to 22 March 2016.

* E/CN.7/2016/1.



Annex to the note verbale dated 14 January 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Outcome of the international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development*

Summary

The present document contains information on the outcome of the international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development, including the deliberations and recommendations of the International Conference.

The International Conference was held in Thailand, with part of the field visit held in Myanmar, from 19 to 24 November 2015. It was hosted by the Royal Thai Government, in collaboration with the Government of Germany, the Government of Myanmar, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with the aim to promote the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 58/4, entitled "Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development", the Commission on Narcotic Drugs welcomed the proposal of the Royal Thai Government to host an international workshop and conference on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development.
2. In the same resolution, the Commission invited Member States, UNODC, international financial institutions, donors, development practitioners, regional and international organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders involved in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, to participate in the event.
3. The objectives of the International Conference were to underscore the need to integrate alternative development interventions into the larger national rural development agenda and to link the Guiding Principles with broader discussions around the post-2015 development agenda, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the upcoming special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. The International Conference furthermore aimed to contribute to an increase in political and financial

* Issued without formal editing.

support for alternative development programmes by strengthening global alliances among potential international donors, countries implementing alternative development programmes, and countries interested in alternative development.

II. International workshop

4. The first segment of the International Conference consisted of a field visit and workshop from 19 to 21 November 2015, led by Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand. Participants visited alternative development projects in Shan State, Myanmar and the provinces of Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, Thailand. On 19 November 2015, participants visited the Myanmar-Thailand Cooperation on Sustainable Alternative Livelihood Development, a cooperation project between the Myanmar and Thai Governments, in Yawng Kha, Mong Hsat District, Shan State, Myanmar. The Project, which is in its early stages, applies an area-based approach, focused on improving the overall well-being of the communities and providing them with livelihood options so that they do not have to resort to illicit activities. On 20 November 2015, participants also visited the Doi Tung Development Project in Chiang Rai, Thailand, administered by the Mae Fah Luang Foundation, and the Nong Hoi Royal Project Development Centre in Chiang Mai, Thailand, administered by the Royal Project Foundation. These two latter sites are areas where alternative development projects have been longstanding and are entering into a sustainable stage, with an emphasis on diversification of on-farm and off-farm income generating activities, post-harvest management, value-adding activities, and, most importantly, capacity-building, empowerment, and entrepreneurship of the local people.

5. During the field visit to Yawng Kha village, Shan State, Myanmar, participants saw the initial stages of an area-based, holistic alternative development project spanning health, water systems, agriculture, livestock, and education activities. The participants noted that strong cooperation from the Myanmar central and local government authorities, integrating alternative development into the national and local government development policies, as well as engagement and empowerment of the local community throughout the development process, were crucial to the success of the programme. The importance of a holistic and integrated approach was also demonstrated in all the activities. For example, the livestock development programme trained the local villagers in livestock husbandry and basic veterinary treatment, set up a community medicine fund to provide medication of good quality to ensure effective treatment, and introduced quality feed for livestock, before setting up a livestock bank programme to provide the most disadvantaged households access to livestock in order to increase their assets and income.

6. The field visit to the Doi Tung Development Project involved participants' studying the production base for high-quality food and handicraft products and value-adding facilities for produce from the economic forest:¹ Arabica coffee and macadamia. These livelihood alternatives generate long-term and stable income and employment for women and men of all ages. The products can compete financially

¹ Forest areas allocated by the Government for the locals to grow high-value perennial crops that meet the demand of the market and can be processed in the value-adding chains, enabling stable income for the local communities.

with opium and are competitive within the modern marketplace, thus showcasing the importance of diverse off-farm income generation, quality assurance, continuous innovation, a market-driven approach, and people-public-private partnership.

7. Community representatives from multiple generations of alternative development beneficiaries in Doi Tung shared their personal stories about the change they experienced over the years through the alternative development project. The discussions highlighted the close engagement of the community throughout the life of the project, the sense of ownership of the people over individual and community development, promoting community self-monitoring and a culture of lawfulness, and their commitment to preserving the natural environment, their local culture, and their social norms.

8. Participants were briefed on the Royal Project, the pioneer on alternative development policies and practices in the region. The Royal Project is His Majesty the King's initiative. Since 1969 it has improved the quality of life of hill-tribe people, reduced opium cultivation, and revived forest and water resources. The Royal Project has helped to strengthen community resilience, which is crucial to sustainable development.

9. Participants visited the Nong Hoi Royal Project Development Centre, where vegetables were the main crops. The Centre presented the Royal Project's modern post-harvest handling, storage and distribution system. Comprehensive operations ensured that products of the Royal Project were delivered from the highlands to consumers in compliance with international standards on food safety and quality control. The Royal Project is a good example of using private sector level post-harvest handling in a Development-oriented Rural Enterprise. Decades of continued efforts have turned the highlands into an opium-free zone.

10. The field visits particularly highlighted the importance of ensuring survival, sufficiency, and sustainability through distinct phases in the implementation of alternative development projects. The survival phase of the project addresses the community's ability to survive by addressing fundamental health issues, improving basic infrastructure, providing food security, and generating adequate income to meet basic economic and social needs. The second phase empowers people to be sufficient by emphasizing value-adding activities to secure stable and long-term income and savings, enhancing community-based resource development and management, and equipping the community to be an agent of its own development through the provision of necessary skills and education. Finally, sustainability is reached when the community is resilient and can continue to improve itself. Ultimately, an alternative development project should be able to finance itself; sustainable development is realized when financial stability is coupled with social and environmental progress.

11. After the field visits, the participants were divided into four working groups to discuss and summarize the main findings of the field visits in relation to the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, as well as their relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, before reporting to the plenary. The summary points were then presented by M. L. Dispanadda Diskul, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation, on behalf of the Thai organizers, at the High-level Conference plenary, and also included in the Chairman's oral report presented by H.E. Ambassador Arthayudh Srisamoot,

Chairperson of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, during the closing of the High-level Conference. Among others, the following points were emphasized by the participants.

12. Participants of the field visits noted the importance of a long-term holistic and integrated area-based development approach, addressing social, economic, and environmental dimensions, as well as the value of public-private partnerships in providing technical and financial support and assisting with the marketing of products from alternative development programmes.

13. Participants also highlighted the importance of land access and management contributing to a sense of belonging among the community and a willingness to invest in long-term alternative cash crops, which require more time to produce yields and become profitable. Participants especially noted the importance of human development indicators, such as income, life expectancy and education, and other measurements, such as health and food security, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, to measure the efficacy of alternative development.

III. High-level International Conference

14. The second segment of the Second International Conference on Alternative Development was the High-level Conference, held on 23 and 24 November 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The High-level Conference was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Arthayudh Srisamoot, Chairperson of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

A. Participants

15. The Second International Conference on Alternative Development was attended by 258 participants from 38 countries, 17 organizations, as well as international experts, academics, representatives from civil society, the private sector, and communities cultivating illicit crops.

16. The countries in attendance were: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sudan, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay, and Viet Nam.

17. The organizations represented were: African Union, Asian Development Bank, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretariat, Colombo Plan Secretariat, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Europe against Drugs, International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, International Narcotics Control Board, International Organization of Good Templars, Mae Fah Luang Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Royal Project Foundation, Thai Stock Exchange, Thailand Institute of Justice, Transnational Institute, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and Washington Office on Latin America.

B. Opening ceremony

18. The opening ceremony of the high-level session on 23 November 2015 commenced with welcoming remarks by H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand, who reaffirmed the importance of alternative development as essential in combating the world drug problem. He shared Thailand's experience in addressing the problem of the cultivation of illicit drug crops in the north near the Golden Triangle region by introducing alternative development programmes. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov, followed the Prime Minister's remarks in a video message that reaffirmed that alternative development had immense potential and could dramatically improve the lives of people. Mr. Fedotov underscored the need to reinforce the linkages between alternative development and broader agricultural issues, access to markets, land titles, and infrastructure, among others. Aldo Lale-Demoz, Deputy Executive Director of UNODC, then highlighted the aim of the International Conference on Alternative Development to link alternative development with the Sustainable Development Goals, stressing that they were a perfect platform for alternative development to deliver results in poverty reduction, sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, gender-based equality, the promotion of peaceful and inclusive communities, and good governance. H.E. Mrs. Marlene Mortler, Federal Drug Commissioner, Germany, recommended that the common goal should be to make alternative development not only politically recognized, but also a properly funded and sustainably implemented pillar of international drug policy. To end the opening remarks, Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand stressed the need for sustained long-term commitment to alternative development — from the highest political levels, to the people in the community — and to integrate this approach into broader national development strategies in order to have real impact on the ground. Her Royal Highness also highlighted that a culture of lawfulness promoted communal responsibility and a respect for public order; empowered communities are the best form of immunity against illicit activities. H.E. Ambassador Khaled Abdel Rahman Shamaa, Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, also briefed the plenary on the preparations for the special session and how the International Conference could contribute to the process.

C. Plenary

19. The opening ceremony was followed by a plenary session that provided the opportunity for national statements on the theme "Implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development: Gaps and Challenges", and recommendations on "The way forward: alternative development and the Sustainable Development Goals".

20. UNODC presented the *World Drug Report 2015* chapter on alternative development, which served as input to the discussions at the plenary session as it showcased the drivers of illicit cultivation, indicators used to measure the impact of

alternative development projects, and challenges to alternative development projects focusing on the need for long-term political and financial support.

21. The presentation gave an overview of the global opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis cultivation estimates, showcasing reduction estimates using examples such as Afghanistan. A map of geographical locations of alternative development programmes in the presentation highlighted that the drivers of illicit crop cultivation were specific to physical location, characteristics of the illicit crop in question (durability, profit-generation, etc.) and environmental factors. Illicit cultivation was exacerbated by weak infrastructure and weak rule of law and governance. The main challenges of alternative development were deemed to be marginalization of communities, poverty, isolated areas with limited Government control and insecurity. Long-term political and financial support, income-generating alternatives, marketing of products of alternative development, land tenure and sustainable management and use of land, local ownership, and focus on women were highlighted as the key elements of successful implementation of alternative development.

22. The impact of alternative development was shown to lead communities from a vicious to a virtuous cycle. The vicious cycle consisted of the link between weak rule of law and rising illicit crop cultivation, with heightened organized crime and violence and a reduction in the growth of the licit economy. The virtuous cycle, on the contrary, consisted of the virtuous link between strong rule of law and governance and a reduction in illicit crop cultivation, with weakened organized crime and violence and an increase in the growth of the licit economy.

23. The presentation highlighted that funding to support the implementation of alternative development represents less than 1 per cent of global development assistance. This fact underscores the existing discrepancy between the broad, international political endorsement of alternative development and the actual funding supporting its implementation.

24. Member States stressed that there should be enhanced system-wide coherence and coordination on development and drug control policies among all relevant agencies. Effective cooperation between all stakeholders is essential throughout the entire alternative development process.

25. Member States highlighted the strong links between market access and sustainability of alternative development programmes, stressing that alternative development products must be marketable, of high quality and competitive in local, regional and, ultimately, international markets. It was noted that the private sector could play a valuable role by sharing innovation, expertise, skills and providing financial and technical support and marketing assistance for alternative development products.

26. Member States noted that alternative development programmes should not solely focus on agriculture, but also promote diverse livelihood activities and sources of income, increase food security, and progress towards value-adding and marketing activities.

D. Panel discussions

27. Two panel discussions were held on the second day of the High-level Conference. The first panel discussion focused on rule-of-law and security challenges in the development-oriented drug control context. The first panel was moderated by Mr. Aldo Lale-Demoz, Deputy Executive Director of UNODC, and panellists included Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand, H.E. Mrs. Marlene Mortler, Federal Drug Commissioner of Germany, and H.E. Mrs. Salamat Azimi, Minister of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan. The second panel discussion focused on alternative development, Sustainable Development Goals and the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016: enhancing innovation and impact on the ground. The second panel was moderated by Dr. Sandro Calvani, Senior Adviser on Strategic Planning of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation, and panellists included H.E. Mr. Khaled Abdel-Rahman Shamaa, Chair of the Board of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, Aldo Lale-Demoz, Deputy Executive Director of UNODC, Ms. Pien Metaal, representative of the Civil Society Task Force,² and Mrs. Kesara Manchusree, President of the Thai Stock Exchange.

Key conclusions of panel 1

28. Panellists and delegates stressed that the presence of the State in terms of governance and security is essential for peaceful and inclusive societies and alternative development. It was also noted that there is a correlation between areas of illicit crop cultivation and the absence of the State.

29. Panellists emphasized that respect for the rule of law is essential to facilitate social justice. While laws that comply with human rights standards exist, they also need to be regulated and enforced by the farming community, acknowledging that a culture of lawfulness comes from within communities.

30. The panel also discussed the importance of land rights and property ownership in promoting alliances with small farmer communities. The rule of law empowers communities by providing them knowledge of legal frameworks, access to justice and an understanding of their rights and duties as good citizens of society. Communities with alternative development projects can promote the rule of law when they have ownership and are responsible for their own development.

31. Panellists also highlighted the significance of linking national drug control strategies to the broader national development strategies and regional coordination.

Key conclusions of panel 2

32. The view of the private sector on the link between sustainable development and alternative development was that corporate stakeholders have a social responsibility to include sustainable development in profit-making projects. Economic investment should interlink government, environment, and society. It was also stressed that marketing skills should be promoted in communities in order to

² Joint Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs-New York NGO Committee on Drugs Initiative for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

create value-added products and introduce products stemming from alternative development in local, national, regional and/or international markets.

33. Civil society highlighted the importance of including a larger number of farmer communities in alternative development programmes by re-evaluating the criteria required for access to these programmes. Also highlighted was the proper sequencing of alternative development projects so that livelihoods are adopted before undertaking eradication activities, ensuring that development aid is not conditional upon eradication. It is also important to ensure meaningful participation of communities in the design and implementation process, with the goal of empowering the communities.

34. From the perspective of the process relating to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, the importance of effectively incorporating products stemming from alternative development projects into the international trading system was highlighted. It was noted that development projects should be designed based on the socioeconomic context of the community, as well as its local history and norms. Finally, all stakeholders involved should cooperate and coordinate effectively in order to ensure sustainable alternative development. Advanced research into the drivers of illicit crop cultivation, illicit financial flows, social deficits, and the impact on environmental sustainability was deemed crucial.

35. UNODC recommended that alternative development require increased credibility and viability. The Office emphasized that improved monitoring and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals' indicators, understanding the drivers of illicit crop cultivation, addressing social deficits and illicit financial flows, innovation in the areas of environmental protection, and fostering business skills and acumen among farmers will contribute to more effective alternative development.

E. Side events

36. Three side events were held on the first day of the High-level Conference, and one on the second day of the Conference. These events were a good opportunity for countries, organizations, and farmers to express their perspectives on facets of alternative development, and generated lively discussion among the participants who attended. The side events covered a range of topics such as "Improving the research and understanding of the impacts of alternative development", "Cooperation among Greater Mekong subregion countries on alternative development and inputs to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development", "Meaningful involvement of farmers and affected communities" and "Rule of law and alternative development: strengthening the rule of law to achieve sustainable development in areas of illicit crop cultivation".

IV. Key conclusions and recommendations

37. The United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development serve as an important framework for alternative development. There is no "one size fits all" approach to the implementation of alternative development on the ground, as it must

be adapted to particular local contexts. Alternative development increases the State's presence, builds trust between the community and government, and, in some cases, promotes peace and a culture of lawfulness. Alternative development projects seen in the field visits are recognized as examples of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of His Majesty the King of Thailand, as they focused on enhancing individual and community resilience. Alternative development, as one of the fundamental pillars of the international crop control strategy, is intrinsically linked and complementary to the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as its implementation can contribute to and create conditions conducive to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. Alternative development programmes should be mainstreamed into national development plans, involving coordination between relevant governmental agencies in order to provide sustainable alternative livelihoods, income-generating sources, services, and necessary infrastructure for small farmer communities.

39. Alternative development must have an area-based and people-centred approach based on empowerment and ownership of local communities involved in designing and implementing alternative development programmes. Effective cooperation by all stakeholders, including relevant Government agencies, local authorities, local leaders, civil society, private sector, relevant subregional, regional, and international institutions, international financial institutions and, most importantly, the farmers and communities themselves, in the entire alternative development process, is crucial for the success of alternative development, as it would meet the needs of the end beneficiaries, leverage expertise, avoid duplication of services and better utilize resources.

40. Alternative development should be included in further debates in the area of good governance and the rule of law. The relationship between alternative development, the rule of law and good governance can be seen as mutually reinforcing and complementary.

41. The success of alternative development programmes should not only be measured by illicit crop reduction estimates, but also by using human development indicators, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Increased funding for impact assessments is needed in order to acquire evidence-based data to evaluate the impact, effectiveness and sustainability of the programmes. Good quality impact assessment will provide better evidence of alternative development outcomes, which could help to engage the broader development community and render more support to alternative development efforts.

42. The integration of criteria related to environmental sustainability in alternative development programmes is important. Reforestation, water management, shifting cultivation — after viable income possibilities from alternative development programmes are in place — and sustainable land-use planning in the context of alternative development also support broader environmental conservation.

43. Access to productive land and land rights, including formal or informal land tenure systems, with the full participation and consultation of local communities, must be promoted and protected in the implementation of alternative development programmes.

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44. Proper sequencing in the implementation of alternative development programmes is necessary to allow smallholder farmers to have access to secured alternative livelihoods prior to the eradication of illicit crops, taking into account the transition period between illicit crop cultivation and licit income-generating activities.
45. Consideration should be given to broadening the application of alternative development programmes both in rural and urban areas. Some Member States expressed interest in broadening the implementation of alternative development in cannabis-growing areas.
46. Drug prevention and treatment interventions should be an integral part of alternative development programmes in illicit crop cultivation areas where there is a presence of drug use and drug use disorders.
47. More research is needed to better understand factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation, taking into account local and regional specificities. Regional strategies and good practices on alternative development that reflect common and shared circumstances should be encouraged and promoted.
48. A strong political will towards alternative development principles, well-designed alternative development programmes, a long-term commitment to development assistance with flexible funding from Governments, international organizations, and donors, and enhanced subregional and regional initiatives are some of the key factors that can ensure continuity and sustainability of alternative development programmes.
49. The marketability of the products should be assessed before implementing the alternatives, and, where applicable, alternative development products should aim to create value added chains to ensure higher income to target communities in order to support sustainable livelihood and compete with income generated from illicit crop cultivation.
50. Cooperation with the private sector can play a valuable role by sharing innovation, expertise and skills, and by providing financial and technical support and marketing assistance for alternative development products.
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Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 — Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation

Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking, from the anti-money-laundering perspective**Report of the Executive Director***Summary*

The present report has been prepared pursuant to resolution 58/6 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking, from the anti-money-laundering perspective". In that resolution, the Commission requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session on the progress made in implementing the resolution. The present report provides an overview of the progress made and the assistance provided by UNODC to Member States to implement the resolution since its adoption in March 2015, with reference to, inter alia, policy, legislative and institutional measures, technical cooperation, partnership-building, coordination and best practices.

* E/CN.7/2016/1.



I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to resolution 58/6 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking, from the anti-money-laundering perspective". In that resolution, the Commission recalled General Assembly resolution 66/177, on strengthening international cooperation in combating the harmful effects of illicit financial flows resulting from criminal activities, in which the Assembly noted with interest the work undertaken in countering money-laundering within the framework of relevant specialized regional and international bodies. It also recalled its resolution 52/9, on strengthening measures against the laundering of assets derived from drug trafficking and related offences.

2. Resolution 58/6 builds upon previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission by focusing on the need to combat illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking from the perspective of countering money-laundering. That comes amid growing concern that illicit financial flows from drug trafficking may have financed terrorist groups, including the Taliban, Al-Qaida and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).¹ The need to combat illicit financial flows in order to improve sustainable development outcomes was prioritized by the international community in 2015 in General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Both of those documents contain reference to the importance of significantly reducing illicit financial flows.

3. Target 4 of Sustainable Development Goal 16 is to significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime. Thus, bearing in mind the nexus between illicit financial flows and drug trafficking, it is imperative for States to continue to enhance national, regional and international cooperation in order to reduce the risks posed by illicit financial flows.

4. In its resolution 58/6, the Commission requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session on the progress made in implementing that resolution. The present report highlights the activities and measures taken by UNODC up to 31 December 2015 to support the implementation of the resolution. Such activities and measures include policy, legislative and institutional support, technical assistance, partnership-building, coordination and the sharing of good practices.

II. Cooperation, interaction and coordination

5. UNODC is currently working with the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to resolution 1526 (2004) to develop a new methodology to target the funds that the Taliban and other terrorist groups affiliated with Al-Qaida receive from opiate trafficking in Afghanistan. That concept was the

¹ See Security Council resolution 1333 (2000).

subject of a joint briefing by UNODC, the Monitoring Team and the Combined Maritime Forces to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) in November 2015. Opiate trafficking is considered by the Monitoring Team to be one of the leading sources of funds and financial expertise for the Taliban and poses strategic security and economic risks to Afghanistan and the neighbouring region. The new methodology seeks to use the unique chemical signatures of opium grown in areas where the Taliban are likely to profit from drug trafficking in order to identify the downstream supply chain as having benefited, directly or indirectly, the Taliban. The project will be developed by UNODC as an interdivisional effort. Much of the scientific methodology for the concept is drawn from other UNODC projects, including the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime. The concept is at an early stage and operational capability and an associated technical assistance programme will be developed during a series of workshops in 2016, with an initial specific focus on the southern route for opiate trafficking to test the concept before expanding it to other opiate trafficking routes.

6. Inter-agency cooperation was emphasized at the thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 19 to 22 October 2015, and the eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Brussels from 22 to 25 June 2015. At both meetings, recommendations were made concerning the timely exchange of information among law enforcement agencies and the importance of establishing inter-agency task forces that would harness the skills of several agencies. In that context, specific reference was made to the "Safe Mekong" initiative and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific.

7. Inter-agency cooperation was further discussed at a meeting convened by UNODC in Kabul in October 2015, at which relevant agencies from across the Government expressed willingness to work under the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Center of Afghanistan for the coordination and provision of training on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. At that meeting, all participating agencies agreed on the urgent need for the placement of two UNODC advisers to deliver technical assistance on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism under the country programme for Afghanistan.

8. UNODC hosted two international workshops, in Belarus (November 2015) and the Republic of Moldova (December 2015), which were attended by representatives from a range of agencies, the private sector and international organizations. Participants were trained in the UNODC financial disruption methodology, with scenarios focused on drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. During the workshop in Belarus, participants discussed a real case involving the use of virtual currencies for drug trafficking that could not be solved using traditional methods. They drew on their varied backgrounds and knowledge of the capabilities of their respective agencies to identify a wider range of financial disruption options, which could be used to reduce the ability of the drug-trafficking network to move and store its funds. During the workshop in the Republic of Moldova, a representative from one of the world's leading money service providers discussed a \$20 million case with representatives of the financial intelligence unit of one of the participating countries. UNODC provided expert advice, which facilitated the transfer by the

money service provider of crucial information in both Russian and English, to the financial intelligence unit of Ukraine for further investigation.

9. As part of the criminal assets southern hub (CASH) initiative of the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, UNODC co-chaired a joint interregional workshop on the theme of "Supporting successful prosecutions and other disruptions by building, enhancing and networking financial investigation capacity in national law enforcement agencies" that was held in Tashkent from 13 to 15 May 2015. The workshop was convened in partnership with a Financial Action Task Force-style regional body, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money-laundering and Financing of Terrorism, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It was attended by over 40 participants from 11 countries, representing law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units. At the plenary meeting, participants concluded that there was a need to develop more comprehensive and networked systems for training for Member States on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, with the support of the Eurasian Group, OSCE and UNODC. Participants in the plenary also recognized the critical importance of involving financial intelligence units in supporting the development of capabilities for combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism in law enforcement agencies. It is anticipated that the implementation of those recommendations will be supported by the UNODC initiative on the networking of law enforcement training institutions (TrainNet) and its recently launched Global Programme for Building Efficient Networks against Transnational Organized Crime.

10. A regional workshop on the theme "Illicit use of money and value transfer services: enhancing inter-agency working and financial intelligence" was held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, from 21 to 24 September 2015 as part of the CASH initiative of the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. The workshop was attended by senior experts from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (regional programme countries) and panellists from Lithuania, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The workshop was aimed at identifying and sharing good practices, initiatives and typologies in detecting, investigating and disrupting the criminal use of money and value transfer services, in regulating and encouraging community engagement with providers of money and value transfer services, and in determining critical information requirements, collection methodologies and information-sharing channels in relation to the criminal use of such services. The workshop also served as a platform for signing a memorandum of understanding between the financial intelligence units of Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The memorandum was signed on 23 September 2015 and provides a legal framework for enhancing inter-agency cooperation between the financial intelligence units and allowing those units to investigate a key first stage of the illicit financial flows associated with opiates being trafficked along the northern route.

11. UNODC chaired a meeting of the Paris Pact Initiative Expert Working Group on illicit financial flows in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 1 to 3 June 2015. The meeting was attended by 21 countries, 9 organizations and around 50 delegates, including some from the private financial sector. The Expert Working Group conducted a gap analysis of issues that were identified as priorities by the participants. That resulted

in over 50 recommendations, many of which have been incorporated into UNODC workplans and fundraising strategies for 2016. One specific vulnerability identified was the need for greater public-private sector cooperation in addressing illicit financial flows derived from drug trafficking. UNODC took the opportunity provided by the meeting of the Expert Working Group to invite the head of the Kabul money service providers (hawala) market and a representative from a world-leading money service provider to discuss key issues surrounding private-public sector engagement for reducing the threat posed by the abuse of money and value transfer services. That was the first time a representative from an Afghan money service provider had addressed such a working group. The representative from the world-leading money service provider made an open offer to provide information from their global databases upon request via an official e-mail for intelligence and operational (i.e. non-evidential) purposes only. That offer has subsequently been taken up on several occasions by different Member States. Consequently, one of the core recommendations proposed at the meeting of the Expert Working Group was the need to enhance private sector involvement in activities related to countering illicit financial flows.

12. In October and December 2015, UNODC received requests for assistance from two Member States in South America to support them in the development of frameworks for combating money-laundering to counter threats that they face, including from drug trafficking. In response to those requests, UNODC will conduct workshops related to the nexus between drug trafficking and illicit financial flows in the region in 2016. In addition, it will use its infrastructure in the region, through its network of country and regional programmes, to support the future delivery of specialist assistance on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, subject to the availability of funding. The Eurasian Group, welcomed as a new Paris Pact partner in 2015, and several other Paris Pact partners highlighted a list of jurisdictions in the Caribbean and Central and South America that act as financial centres and are considered particularly vulnerable to money-laundering associated with drug trafficking. Subsequently, the Expert Working Group recommended that UNODC discuss with those jurisdictions the benefits of joining the Paris Pact partnership. Similarly, under its Global Programme against Money-laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC discussed with counterparts in South America the benefits of sharing good practices in combating the trafficking of cocaine and good practices developed within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative to combat opiates originating in Afghanistan.

13. The Paris Pact secretariat successfully combined three of the four pillars of the initiative by organizing one joint expert working group that provided sessions for experts in the fields of cross-border cooperation, illicit financial flows and precursors. That resulted in a number of important observations and recommendations that would not have been made otherwise, such as the need to focus financial investigations downstream, on points of diversion of precursors, rather than upstream, at the manufacturing stages.

III. Implementing institutional systems, procedures and frameworks

14. UNODC presented its new financial disruption strategy at the joint Experts Meeting of the Financial Action Task Force in Mexico in September 2015 and at the Middle East and North Africa meetings of the Task Force in Bahrain in November 2015. Practical financial disruption training sessions were also given in Belarus and the Republic of Moldova, in November and December 2015, respectively, at international workshops attended by representatives of a number of agencies and the private sector. The financial disruption strategy is the result of activity to collate good practices from Member States in modelling the financial infrastructure of criminal and terrorist networks, identifying critical vulnerabilities and developing integrated and coordinated operational plans, which draw on the full range of lawful and proportionate disruption options within the private and public sectors and civil society to deliver sustained, efficient and measurable impact. At the plenary meeting of the Financial Action Task Force held in November 2015, UNODC proposed that it host, in partnership with the Eurasian Group and the Financial Action Task Force, the next joint Experts Meeting of the Task Force in Vienna in May 2016 to address the issue of financial disruption, with topics to include drug trafficking.

15. In March 2015, input was provided to the legislation on combating money-laundering of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. That input was provided through three workshops for the Lao authorities, conducted in cooperation with the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the Australian Attorney General.

16. In 2015, UNODC received funding aligned to priority areas for technical assistance, which were highlighted in the financial statement submitted prior to the adoption of Commission resolution 58/6. That has allowed UNODC to recruit and place expert advisers on combating money-laundering in South-Eastern Europe (staff) and in the Afghanistan and neighbouring countries region (consultant).

17. The initial prototype of the UNODC continuous professional development system for managing the training and development of the communities engaged in combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism in Member States has been completed. It is anticipated that initial trials will take place in 2016 with selected Member States.

18. As part of the UNODC CASH initiative (of the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries), two five-day courses were delivered in Istanbul, Turkey, in September and October 2015. Approximately 20 participants attended each course. The participants represented countries located along identified routes used by illicit cash couriers: Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan (Triangular Initiative), and Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan Initiative). Planning is currently under way to repeat the courses in March and September 2016, before moving into a "train-a-trainer" phase. At the country level, UNODC conducted a one-day awareness course on cash couriers in Kabul in October 2015, which brought together a wide range of law enforcement professionals from Afghan agencies to consider and learn techniques for detecting, investigating and disrupting

bulk cash smuggling. A project was also launched by UNODC to develop a process map, including technical assistance needs, for cash seizures by the Inter-Agency Task Force at Kabul international airport, a key exit point for cash being smuggled out of Afghanistan.

19. Under its Global Programme against Money-laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC completed the development of a five-day course for professionals in that field on reducing the risks posed by the criminal abuse of money and value transfer services. Those services have been identified by UNODC in its analysis of the Tashkent questionnaire (Paris Pact initiative) and by successive Paris Pact expert working groups as a leading method for drug traffickers to move and store funds. Planning is under way to deliver joint courses, initially to participants from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, and secondly to participants from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (in mid-2016). The critical role often played by money and value transfer services in supporting migrant remittances and vulnerable economies will be highlighted. The courses are aligned with the provisions against money-laundering contained in relevant international and multilateral agreements, such as the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in accordance with national legislation, as well as with the International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation of the Financial Action Task Force.

IV. Nexus between illicit financial flows and drug trafficking, and its “business model”

20. In December 2015, UNODC published a report entitled *Drug Money: the Illicit Proceeds of Opiates Trafficked on the Balkan Route*. That was the first research product published by UNODC that focused specifically on the economics of drug trafficking. Further recommendations were made at the meeting of the Expert Working Group to repeat the research on a regular basis to update the information and maintain a continuously improving picture of illicit financial flows, including on the northern and southern opiate trafficking routes. Planning is now under way to deliver a series of regular “common information picture” workshops in 2016, in both the Afghanistan and neighbouring countries region and South-Eastern Europe, to develop and maintain an ever-improving understanding of illicit financial flows, including those derived from drug trafficking.

21. UNODC has supported Member States in analysing illicit financial flows within the context of drug trafficking through the development of its financial disruption strategy (and the associated financial disruption workbook). That includes identifying key vulnerabilities in the business models of drug traffickers and money-laundering networks. At its meeting in Kazakhstan, the Expert Working Group examined and provided a forum for participants to discuss techniques for identifying critical vulnerabilities in the drug-trafficking “business model”. The Expert Working Group also affirmed the importance of complementing disruptions of drug trafficking with parallel financial investigations.

V. Recommendations

22. Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/6 continues to provide a sufficiently detailed and relevant framework for implementing achievable measures to reduce the threat posed by the illicit financial flows associated with drug trafficking. Further, the work of UNODC with Member States in implementing the resolution contributes to assisting them to implement the calls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to significantly reduce illicit financial flows. The activities undertaken by UNODC between the adoption of Commission resolution 58/6, in March 2015, and 31 December 2015 demonstrate an increasing understanding of illicit financial flows and the development of more effective, cheaper and sustainable disruption activities and systems to build and maintain effective networks of professionals in combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism at the national, inter-agency and international levels. While significant funding and commitments to fund those activities have been received as a result of the financial statement on Commission resolution 58/6, critical gaps remain in funding projects that are essential to the effective implementation of frameworks and activities in support of it.

23. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs may wish to consider:

(a) Urging Member States to support UNODC in delivering technical assistance on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism in order to support them in reducing illicit financial flows, including those associated with drug trafficking;

(b) Urging Member States to consider providing further financial support to UNODC for the provision of technical assistance in support of Commission resolution 58/6, specifically for placing advisers on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism in Afghanistan and Pakistan and in Central Asia, and to continue funding the new adviser in South-Eastern Europe, in order to support the development of frameworks on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism;

(c) Urging Member States to intensify their efforts to strengthen international and inter-agency cooperation to combat illicit financial flows derived from drug trafficking through implementing the provisions for combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism contained in relevant international and regional instruments and maintaining cooperation between relevant law enforcement agencies;

(d) Encouraging Member States to continue to promote private-public sector cooperation and coordination;

(e) Encouraging Member States to continue to develop and enhance legislative and institutional systems to combat illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking;

(f) Reminding Member States to consider the key vulnerabilities in the "business model" of drug-trafficking and money-laundering networks and to encourage them to conduct investigations into drug trafficking in parallel with, and supported by, financial investigations into the financial component of those cases.



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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

Preparations for the special session of the General

Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Organizational arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present report provides information on the organization of the special segment, to be held during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. It provides information on the status of preparations for the special session, including ongoing deliberations on the elaboration of the outcome document and on the organizational arrangements for the five interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables to be conducted during the special session.

* E/CN.7/2016/1.



I. Mandate and background

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/193, decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

2. In its resolution 68/197, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the United Nations organ with prime responsibility for drug control matters, to engage in the preparatory process for the special session, including by presenting proposals from the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions of the Commission through the Economic and Social Council in support of the preparatory process, including on progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, to be considered by the Assembly starting at its sixty-ninth session.

3. In its resolution 69/200, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, should lead the preparatory process of the special session of the Assembly by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, and invited the President of the Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process.

4. In that resolution, the General Assembly invited organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks, other relevant international organizations, including the International Narcotics Control Board, and regional organizations to contribute fully to the preparations for the special session in 2016, in particular by submitting to the Commission, through the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, specific recommendations on the issues to be addressed at the special session.

5. The Assembly recognized the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in the preparations for and during the fifty-second and fifty-seventh sessions of the Commission, including their high-level segments. It further recognized the need for their active involvement in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need for their effective, substantive and active involvement during the special session, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practice developed for other special sessions of the General Assembly, and requested the Chair of the Commission to consider undertaking consultations and other appropriate actions in that regard with relevant stakeholders.

6. Further to its resolution 57/5, and to ensure an adequate inclusive and effective preparatory process, the Commission established a website for the special session (www.ungass2016.org) to enable global dialogue in an inclusive and transparent manner. All relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations have been invited to send written contributions. All contributions received have been posted on the website.

Presentations made during the intersessional meetings and during interactive informal discussions and side events are also available on the website.

7. At its reconvened fifty-seventh session in December 2014, the Commission adopted decision 57/2, pursuant to which a Board tasked by the Commission with preparations for the special session was established. The Board is in charge of organizing all actions to be taken by the Commission in preparation for the special session, by addressing all organizational and substantive matters, in an open-ended manner, in preparation for and during the special segments of sessions of the Commission devoted to the preparations. The Board was elected on the basis of the regional distribution of officers of the Bureau of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission and facilitates the participation of all States Members and observers of the United Nations, along with organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks and other relevant international and regional organizations, parliamentarians, the scientific community and civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in the preparations of the Commission for the special session.

8. At its regular fifty-eighth session in March 2015, the Commission adopted resolution 58/8 and recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly defining the modalities for the special session on the world drug problem. The special segment on the preparations for the special session, held during the regular fifty-eighth session of the Commission, consisted of a general debate followed by five interactive discussions on the following thematic areas: (a) demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion ("drugs and health"); (b) supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation ("drugs and crime"); (c) cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities; (d) cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three international drug control conventions; strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation; and (e) alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues. Members of the Board chaired the interactive discussions and presented a summary of the outcome of their respective discussions at the closing session of the special segment.

9. At the same session, the Commission adopted decision 58/15 containing the preliminary provisional agenda for the special segment to be held during its fifty-ninth session. The provisional agenda and the proposed organization of work for the special segment are contained in annexes I and II.

10. The General Assembly adopted resolution 70/181, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016", on 17 December 2015. In the resolution, the Assembly decided that the special session would be held from 19 to 21 April 2016 and would consist of a general debate and five interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables conducted in parallel to the plenary. In addition to the provisions related to the preparations for the

elaboration of the outcome document and the preparations for the conduct of the round tables, the resolution contains provisions related to the opening of the special session and the general debate, on the participation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and the participation of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society and the scientific community, academia, youth groups and other relevant stakeholders that may participate in the special session, with due regard to geographical balance. In resolution 70/181, the Assembly also requested the Commission, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters, to report to it at its special session on the preparations that have been undertaken for the session, through the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission with those preparations. It further reiterated the importance of an inclusive preparatory process, including extensive substantive consultations, and encouraged organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, the scientific community and other relevant stakeholders to continue to fully contribute to the process by actively participating in the preparations undertaken by the Commission, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and established practice.

11. At its reconvened fifty-eighth session in December 2015, the Commission adopted decision 58/16, thereby further defining arrangements for the five interactive round tables, to be held at the special session. Detailed information is contained in section III of the present report.

II. Elaboration of the outcome document

12. In paragraph 5 of resolution 70/181, the General Assembly requested the Commission to produce a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented document comprising a set of operational recommendations, based upon a review of the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements as well as ways to address long-standing and emerging challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments. That document, to be recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session, should, *inter alia*, address measures to reach an effective balance between supply and demand reduction and address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice and security fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility.

13. At the invitation of the Board tasked by the Commission with preparations for the special session, on 12 June 2015 Member States provided, through their respective regional representatives on the Board, proposals for consideration in the preparation of the outcome document. By the deadline set for mid-September, more than 180 pages of proposals had been received, which have been compiled into a comprehensive package and circulated to all Member States through the members of the Board.

14. A timeline consisting of two phases was agreed upon during the intersessional meeting of the Commission on 24 September 2015. During the first phase of the elaboration of the outcome document, in accordance with the timeline agreed upon, Member States focused predominantly on shaping the main elements to be included in that document. In that regard, the Board shared with the Commission three versions of an "elements paper", for further consideration by Member States. The updates reflected the feedback received by Member States during informal consultations and intersessional meetings held on 15 October, 12 November and 8 December 2015. The elements paper, as discussed, updated and fine-tuned during the first phase, provided the foundation for the elaboration of the draft outcome document.

15. The Board presented a first draft of the outcome document on 14 January 2016 and since then several revised versions have been prepared, based on the comments received during multiple rounds of informal consultations and the intersessional meetings held on 27 January and 24 February 2016.

16. The Commission is expected to approve the draft outcome document at its fifty-ninth session in March 2016 for onward submission to the General Assembly.

III. Organizational arrangements for the interactive multi-stakeholder round tables

17. Pursuant to operative paragraph 3 (f) of resolution 70/181, the General Assembly decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session, should address in an open-ended manner, supported and guided by the President of the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements, including chairing arrangements, speakers and participation, for the five interactive multi-stakeholder round tables, while considering the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, in line with General Assembly resolutions 67/193 and 69/201.

18. The themes of the five interactive multi-stakeholder round tables were also listed in paragraph 3 (f) of resolution 70/181, which are identical to the themes of the five interactive discussions, held during the special segment of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission in March 2015.

A. Themes of the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables

19. Pursuant to operative paragraph 3 (f) of General Assembly resolution 70/181, the interactive multi-stakeholder round tables will focus on the following themes:

(a) Round table 1: Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion ("drugs and health");

(i) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care;

(ii) Ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion;

(b) Round table 2: Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation ("drugs and crime"):

(i) Domestic, regional and cross-regional responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering, including, where appropriate, in connection with the financing of terrorism, and promoting judicial cooperation in criminal matters;

(ii) Addressing emerging issues, including new psychoactive substances, precursors and the misuse of the Internet;

(c) Round table 3: Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities:

(i) Addressing drug-related issues in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

(ii) Drugs and youth, women, children and communities;

(d) Round table 4: Cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions; strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation:

(i) New challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

(ii) Strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and enhancing international cooperation, including technical assistance, leading up to 2019;

(e) Round table 5: Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues:

(i) Drugs, addressing socioeconomic issues and fostering alternative development, including preventive alternative development;

(ii) Enhancing regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy.

B. Organizational arrangements for the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables

20. In accordance with decision 58/16, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened fifty-eighth session, the five round tables will be scheduled as follows:

- 19 April 2016 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- 20 April 2016 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- 21 April 2016 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

21. All States Members of the United Nations, observer States and observers, including relevant international organizations with observer status and entities of the United Nations system, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society and the scientific community, academia, youth groups and other relevant stakeholders participating in the special session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/181, are invited to participate in the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables.

22. By decision 58/16, the Commission decided that the round tables would be co-chaired by two representatives of two different regional groups: one of the Co-Chairs should be a member of the Board and the other from a different regional group, to be nominated by the respective regional group at United Nations Headquarters and appointed by the President of the General Assembly. Furthermore, each round table would consist of a panel composed of six panellists, five of whom were to be nominated by regional groups and one by the civil society task force for the special session. The panel could further include up to two speakers from the entities of the United Nations system. The interventions by the panellists would be followed by an interactive discussion and, in order to accommodate as many speakers as possible, interventions by the panellists would be limited to a maximum of five minutes and interventions from the floor to a maximum of three minutes. The Commission further decided that a summary of the salient points raised during the round tables would be prepared by the Chairs of those round tables and presented at the plenary. Those summaries, as read out, would be included in their entirety in the verbatim records of the plenary meetings of the special session, following the standard procedures of special sessions.

23. Pursuant to decision 58/16 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the President of the General Assembly, by a letter dated 19 February 2016, asked regional groups to submit their nominations for a second Co-Chair (in addition to their respective member of the Board) and nominations for panellists. Regional groups were requested to provide their nominations at the latest by 10 March, with a view to making that information available to the fifty-ninth session of the Commission. The Chairs of the regional groups in New York were thereby invited to work closely with the Chairs of the regional groups in Vienna.

Annex I

Provisional agenda for the special segment to be held during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

1. Opening of the special segment.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016:
 - (a) Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the special session, including preparations for the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables;
 - (b) Consideration of the outcome of the special session;
 - (c) Consideration of any other matters.
4. Other business.
5. Outcome and closure of the special segment.

Annex II

Proposed organization of work for the special segment to be held during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Monday, 14 March	10.15 a.m.-1 p.m.	9	Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 Opening of the special segment Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016: (a) Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the special session, including preparations for the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables (b) Consideration of the outcome of the special session (c) Consideration of any other matters
	3-6 p.m.		Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (<i>continued</i>)
Tuesday, 15 March	10.15 a.m.-1 p.m.		Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (<i>continued</i>)
	3-6 p.m.		Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday, 16 March	10.15 a.m.-1 p.m.		Other business
	3-6 p.m.		Outcome and closure of the special segment